

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

### **TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:**

In accordance with the environmental review guidelines of the Council on Environmental Quality found at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1500, and with the use as guidance of the implementing environmental review procedures of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found at 40 CFR Part 6 entitled "Procedures for Implementing the Requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality on the National Environmental Policy Act," EPA has determined the following action is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) and may be excluded from further environmental review.

City of Dallas Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure Improvements  
for the  
City of Dallas Water Utilities  
located in  
Dallas County, Texas

EPA Project Number: XP-976583-01-0

Estimated Total EPA Share: \$ 867,300

Estimated Local Share: \$ 1,800,000

### **BACKGROUND**

The City of Dallas first placed the White Rock Central Wastewater Treatment Plant into service in 1915. The capacity of the Plant has been expanded several times over the last 85 years to meet growing demand. Over the years the raw sewage pump station header has deteriorated extensively, and the plants bar screens have exceeded their service life. Pump station performance has decreased, and maintenance has become excessive. Emergency repairs have been required to keep this pump station in service. Replacement of the equipment is required to avoid failure of equipment that could result in the release of raw sewage into the Trinity River or surrounding areas. This would result in contamination of the environmental and a public health hazard to local residents. The funding recipient has requested that the project be granted a Categorical Exclusion (CE) and excluded from the environmental review requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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The Fiscal Year 2003 Appropriations Act for EPA included special Congressional

funding for water and wastewater construction projects. The funding recipient was selected to receive funding through these special Congressional appropriations for improvements to wastewater treatment infrastructure. The funding recipient will use the EPA funds along with local monies to finance the project.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The raw sewage pump station header with the associated Venturi meters, vault, two bar screens and ancillary components will be replaced. This work will also include minor piping modifications. The activities will involve work on existing equipment located in a previously disturbed area, and will not involve new additional excavation, digging or surface disruptions. These modifications will not change the degree of treatment or capacity of the existing facilities. The location of the project is shown on the map enclosed as Figure 1.

All repair work will be conducted in the public right-of-way, or within servitude areas already controlled by the funding recipient. The work is located entirely within the plant site, and will not have any adverse impact on wildlife, habitat, the environment, or nearby property owners. The project will not require additional land acquisition. There are no Environmental Justice concerns associated with the project, as shown in the Environmental Justice maps enclosed as Figures 2 – 4.

### **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

Categories of actions which individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other Federal, state, local or private actions that do not have a significant adverse effect on the quality of human health and the environment may be excluded from the environmental review requirements of NEPA. The proposed project is consistent with small scale, routine actions that are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, and construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.

Adequate documentation was provided to demonstrate that the proposed project will have no adverse direct, indirect, secondary, or cumulative effect on cultural resources, endangered and threatened species and their critical habitat, and other environmentally important resource areas such as floodplains, wetlands, prime farmlands, and aquifer recharge zones. The information was examined to identify potential extraordinary or exceptional circumstances which would invalidate or prevent the issuance of a CE under 40 CFR Part 6.107(e). Since the project is exceedingly minor in nature, it has been determined that the issuance of the CE is appropriate for the proposed project.

### **APPROVAL**

The request for a CE in order to implement the proposed project without additional delay is approved without the need for additional environmental review. This approval will be revoked if, at any time, the project no longer meets the eligibility for a CE, new evidence determines that significant local or environmental issues exist, or that Federal, state, local or tribal laws are being or may be violated by implementation of the project. Since the project is expected to have a significant beneficial impact upon the citizens and the environmental resources of the area, the proposed construction project is considered to be an appropriate use of Federal funds.

Responsible official,

Gerald Fontenot, P.E.  
Acting Director  
Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division

cc: Robert M. Johnson, P.E., Director  
Dallas Water Utilities

Laura Miller, Mayor  
City of Dallas

J. Kevin Ward, Executive Administrator  
Texas Water Development Board